

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KEVIN CURLEY,

Plaintiff,

v.

CLARK, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:20-cv-00453-JLT-BAK-SAB (PC)

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

(ECF No. 19)

Plaintiff Kevin Curley is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* in this civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff has filed a motion seeking the appointment of counsel, apparently in response to the Court's Order of Clarification.<sup>1</sup> (ECF Nos. 17, 19.)

Plaintiff does not have a constitutional right to appointed counsel in this action, *Rand v. Rowland*, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), and the Court cannot require an attorney to represent Plaintiff pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). *Mallard v. U.S. Dist. Ct. for the S. Dist. of Iowa*, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989). The Court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel under section 1915(e)(1). *Rand*, 113 F.3d at 1525. However, without a reasonable method of securing and compensating counsel, the Court will seek volunteer counsel only in the most serious and exceptional cases. In determining whether exceptional circumstances exist, the

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<sup>1</sup> As indicated in this Court's order of reassignment, this case has been reassigned to District Judge Jennifer L. Thurston. (ECF. 21.)

1 district court must evaluate both the likelihood of success of the merits and the ability of the  
2 plaintiff to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved. *Id.*

3 Plaintiff's motion does not indicate exceptional circumstances that warrant appointment  
4 of counsel. Even assuming that Plaintiff is not well-versed in the law and that he has made  
5 serious allegations, which, if proved, would entitle him to relief, his case is not exceptional. This  
6 Court is faced with similar cases almost daily. At this stage in the proceedings, the Court cannot  
7 make a determination that Plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits. Moreover, based on a  
8 review of the record, the Court finds that Plaintiff is able to articulate his claims adequately. *Id.*  
9 Plaintiff has already filed a First Amended Complaint, which will be screened in due course.  
10 (Doc. 15, ex. 1.)

11 Accordingly, the Court denies without prejudice Plaintiff's motion for the appointment of  
12 counsel.

13  
14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 Dated: January 18, 2022

  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE